IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) Metal halide lamp suitable as projection lamp, for instance as a vehicle headlamp comprising a discharge vessel surrounded by an outer envelope with clearance and having a ceramic wall which encloses a discharge space filled with a filling comprising an inert gas, such as xenon (Xe), and an ionizable salt, wherein in said discharge space two electrodes are arranged whose tips have a mutual interspacing so as to define a discharge path between them, characterized in that said ionizable salt comprises NaI, TlI, CaI_2 and XI_3, wherein X is selected from the group comprising rare earth metals.

2. (original) Metal halide lamp according to claim 1, wherein X is selected from the group comprising Ce, Pr, Lu, Nd.

3. (currently amended) Metal halidelamp according to claim 1~~or 2~~, wherein X is Ce and wherein the molar percentage ratio CeI_3/(NaI + TlI + CaI_2 + CeI_3) lies between 0 and 10%, in particular between 0,5 and 7%, more in particular between 1 and 6.

4. (currently amended) Metal halidelamp according to claim 1~~, 2 or 3~~, wherein X is Ce and wherein the molar percentage ratio $CaI_2/(NaI + TlI + CaI_2 + CeI_3)$ lies between 20 and 90%, in particular between 35 and 85%, more in particular between 45 and 80%.

5. (currently amended) Metal halidelamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 4~~claim 1, wherein the amount of NaI, TlI, CaI_2 and XI_n lies between 0,005 and 0,5 g/cm^3, in particular between 0,025 and 0,3 g/cm^3.

6. (currently amended) Metal halidelamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 5~~claim 1, wherein the filling comprises Hg.

7. (currently amended) Metal halide lamp according to ~~any of the preceding claims 1 through 6~~claim 1 to be used as projection lamp, in particular in a vehicle headlamp.